



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri has expanded their services to include children of incarcerated parents in Scott County and Sikeston through the Amachi program.

What does Amachi mean?

Amachi is a West African word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child."

Why was Amachi created?

Amachi was created to serve the most at-risk children in our society-children of current or former prisoners. In Scott County alone, there are an estimated 393 children who have a parent currently incarcerated and another 1,069 children who have a parent on parole or probation.
(Source: Missouri Department of Corrections)

How can you help?

"Bigs," adult volunteers matched in Big Brothers Big Sisters' Amachi program, meet at least four hours a month for at least one year.

Through our **Community Based Program**, Bigs pick their Littles up at home and go to a movie, take a walk through the park, have dinner together, or other fun activities.

Our highly trained support team will help you along the way to ensure that you have the best experience possible and to ensure the well-being of the family.

The ideal Big is someone who can build a one-to-one friendship with a child, keep his/her promises and be a good role model. Many of our volunteers report getting more out of the relationship than they put in.

Does this program really make a difference?

Studies show that children who have a Big Brother or Big Sister are:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school
- 37% less likely to skip class
- More confident of their performance in schoolwork
- Getting along better with their families

How do I get started?

Call Ellen Carlson at (573) 339-0184 or go on-line to www.bbbsemo.org to find out more information.